

**MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 116 of 1954**

**168.769a Use of voting machines by absentee voters; ballot format; election inspectors; locking and sealing voting machine; record; poll list; recording of votes; notice; challenger.**

Sec. 769a. (1) In a city or township using voting machines the city or township election commission may provide that an absent voter who appears at the clerk's office at any time during the 13 days preceding a primary or election but not later than 4 p.m. of the day preceding the election may vote on a voting machine.

(2) In a city or township which permits the use of voting machines by absentee voters as provided in subsection (1) at least 1 voting machine shall be arranged for absent voters. The machine shall be in the city or township hall.

(3) Only 1 ballot format shall appear on a voting machine.

(4) The city or township election commission shall appoint 2 election inspectors who shall be in the office of the clerk during the time that the machine is present and the office is open to allow absentee voters to use it. The inspectors shall be of different political parties.

(5) When not in use by a voter the voting machine shall be locked by a key to prevent voting on that machine. The key shall be in the custody of the clerk or the clerk's designated representative.

(6) When the office of the clerk is closed the voting machine shall be sealed by a numbered seal in a manner that will prevent voting on the machine. The number of the seal shall be recorded and the record signed by the clerk or the clerk's designated representative. When the office is reopened the clerk or the clerk's designated representative shall examine the seal and record that the number is the same as the number shown on the record of sealing the machine. The record shall be maintained in the clerk's office with other election records.

(7) The machine shall at all times be sealed with a metal numbered seal in a manner that will prevent the votes cast on the machine to be read. This seal will remain on the machine until the recording of the votes. A record of the seal number shall be maintained by the clerk.

(8) A poll list shall be maintained by the inspectors of election in the same manner that a poll list is maintained in a precinct.

(9) On election day the votes cast on the machine shall be recorded by a counting board. After the recording of the votes the machine shall be resealed so that the counters cannot be read without breaking the seal and the seal number shall be recorded.

(10) The city or township clerk shall, at least 20 days before the election, notify the county committee of each political party having candidate son the ballot of the hours that the office will be open and the machine available for voting. A political party or a committee authorized under the provisions of section 731 may appoint 1 challenger to be present during these hours.

**History:** Add. 1980, Act 140, Imd. Eff. May 29, 1980.

**Popular name:** Election Code